

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 ICA-20 HA-05 /085 W

-----034412 010927Z /15

R 010900Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7739

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 JOHANNESBURG 1361

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

DEPT PLEASE PASS AFL-CIO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, SF, US, ILO

SUBJ: MVUBELO MISSION

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1316

1. THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON LUCY MVUBELOS' TRAVEL PLANS
APPEARED IN THE MAY 31 RAND DAILY MAIL: QUOTE:

TRADE UNIONIST MRS. LUCY MVUBELO LEAVES TONIGHT FOR
SWITZERLAND ON WHAT SHE SAYS IS HER "TOUGHEST MISSION
EVER".

MRS. MVUBELO, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COUNTRY'S
LARGEST BLACK UNION - THE 20,000 MEMBER NATIONAL
UNION OF CLOTHING WORKERS - IS AMONG A DELEGATION FROM
THE MULTIRACIAL TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA WHO
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WILL ATTEND THE CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR
ORGANIZATION (ILO) IN GENEVA NEXT MONTH.

OTHER TUCSA REPRESENTATIVES ARE ITS PRESIDENT, MR.
RONNIE WEBB, ITS GENERAL SECRETARY, MR. ARTHUR GROBBELAAR,
AND A MEMBER OF ITS EXECUTIVE, MR. LOUIS PETERSON.

THE TUCSA REPRESENTATIVES WILL DEFEND THEIR INTERESTS IN
THE FACE OF RISING PRESSURES BY THE WORLD LABOR MOVEMENT

AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA - THIS YEAR IS DESIGNATED "ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR" FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS, THE WORLD'S LARGEST GROUPING OF TRADE UNIONS IN THE WEST.

IT WILL BE MRS. MVUBELO'S SIXTH TRIP TO THE CONFERENCES IN GENEVA, AND THE FIRST SINCE HER ABORTIVE ATTEMPTS TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BLACK WORKERS IN 1973 AND 1974

AT THE 1974 ILO CONVENTION SHE WAS REFUSED A PLATFORM TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST A PROPOSED TOTAL BOYCOTT OF SOUTH AFRICA.

SHE CAN EXPECT RENEWED AND HARDENED ATTACKS FROM DELEGATES FROM THE AFRICAN STATES, AND ESPECIALLY FROM THE EXILED SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (SACTU), WHO WILL ALSO BE AT THE CONVENTION.

MRS. MVUBELO SAID YESTERDAY: "I'LL BE FACING MY BIGGEST DIFFICULTY FROM EXILES FROM SOUTH AFRICA. I'M CONFIDENT AND AM PREPARED TO FACE THESE PEOPLE.

"THESE PEOPLE CLAIM TO REPRESENT BLACK WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, YET THEY HAVE NEVER EVEN MET THE WORKERS. WHAT HAVE THEY ACHIEVED FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S WORKERS?" SHE ASKED.

MRS. MVUBELO SAID ONE OF THE CRITICISMS AGAINST HER WAS THAT SHE WAS WORKING IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH A WHITE UNION.

"MEANWHILE, THEY CLAIM THEY ARE FIGHTING APARTHEID. AS MUCH AS I DO NOT CONDONE WHITE DOMINANCE, I DON'T CONDONE UNCLASSIFIED

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IT COMING FROM BLACKS.

"WE ARE A MULTIRACIAL COUNTRY AND SHOULD FORM A MULTIRACIAL SOCIETY," SHE SAID

AFTER THE ILO CONVENTION MRS. MVUBELO, WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HER DELEGATION, WILL VISIT BRITITAIN FOR TALKS WITH LABOR LEADERS.

THEY WILL ALSO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AND ATTEND A SEMINAR IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, ON INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. END QUOTE.

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2. MVUBELO WAS ALSO INTERVIEWED BY THE BLACK DAILY THE
POST. FOLLOWING REPORT APPEARED IN JUNE 1 EDITION: QUOTE:

LEADING TRADE UNIONIST, MRS. LUCY MVUBELO LEFT FOR EUROPE
LAST NIGHT ON A "DIPLOMATIC MISSION".

SHE WILL REPRESENT THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH
AFRICA (TUCSA) AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION
CONVENTION IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

AS SOUTH AFRICA WITHDREW FROM THE ORGANIZATION IN 1964,
MRS. MVUBELO WILL HAVE ONLY OBSERVER STATUS.

SHE WAS GOING TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR TUCSA AND SELL ITS
POLICY TO MEMBER COUNTRIES.

TUCSA IS HAVING DIFFICULTY LOCALLY IN GETTING SOUTH
AFRICA TO REAFFILIATE TO THE ILO.

MEANWHILE, OVERSEAS EXILES OPPOSE DELEGATIONS FROM SOUTH
AFRICA WHICH ATTEND ILO GATHERINGS.

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MRS. MVUBELO SAID: "SELLING OUR POLICY IS DIFFICULT, BUT
I AM PREPARED TO FACE THEM. TO ADD TO THIS SOME MEMBER
COUNTRIES DO NOT QUALIFY FOR THE MEMBERSHIP THEY ENJOY
AS THE TRADE UNION SITUATION IN THEIR COUNTRIES IS FAR
FROM SATISFACTORY.

"THERE ARE SITUATION WHERE TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BE-
LONG TO A SPECIFIC TRADE UNION AND THIS IS SIMPLY ABSURD.
THESE ARE SOME OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH DELIGHT IN OPPOSING
ANYTHING THAT COMES FROM THIS COUNTRY.

"AND OUR EXILES ARE UNFAIR. WE (SIC) ARE NOT PART OF THE
SYSTEM AND THEY SHOULD STOP FIGHTING US." END
QUOTE.

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